

## Meeting Notes

March 21, 2012 9 AM

Reclamation District 833 Office  
1643 West Biggs Gridley Road, Gridley CA

### Appropriate Beneficial Uses for Agricultural Drains Receiving NPDES Discharges

#### Attendees:

Bennett Engineering Services (for the City of Biggs POTW)  
Steve Speights

Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD)  
Eugene Massa Jr.

Laughlin- Spence Civil Engineering (for Reclamation District 833)  
Garry Laughlin

Reclamation District 833  
Charles Nuchols

Central Valley Water Board  
Anne Littlejohn  
Calvin Yang

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Provide a brief background on the project
- Identify key participants and/or contacts
- Review hydrology and water management in the study area
- Review monitoring sites and timeline

#### Meeting Summary

##### 1. Background

- a. A brief background on the current project was provided covering:
  - POTW discharges to Ag. drains, MUN designation via Basin Plan's interpretation of the Drinking Water Policy, resulting economic implications to small communities
  - CV-SALTS stake in the project – CV-SALTS has a parallel process in place to review MUN designation in agricultural drains within the POTW watersheds as an archetypes to develop templates for work in other areas of the Central Valley

- *Meeting participants confirmed that they had no knowledge of MUN use in their district.*
- b. The initial study will lead to a broader analysis of the appropriate beneficial uses in the Central Valley's agriculturally dominated water bodies

## **2. Identify key participants and/or contracts**

- a. Meeting participants confirmed that they would remain as key contacts for their affiliated organizations.
- b. Other potential participants or contacts included Reclamation District 1004, located in the area near the Butte Creek Duck Clubs, and the Gray Lodge Wildlife Preserve.

*Action Item for Central Valley Water Board staff:*

- *Follow-up with Eugene Massa Jr. and Charles Nuchols for contact information*

## **3. Hydrology and Water Management**

- a. Garry Laughlin provided a detailed map of Reclamation District 833. The map was reviewed going downstream from the City of Biggs's wastewater treatment plant. Key highlights include:
  - i. Effluent enters Lateral K from the treatment plant. Lateral K receives water from a series of K channels north of the City of Biggs. Lateral K is never completely dry due to groundwater seepage (high water table). It may also carry well water and storm runoff.
  - ii. The water in Lateral K then flows into the Main Canal – a constructed channel extension of Hamilton Slough, northeast of Biggs. The Main Canal also does not dry up, but it may be at its lowest in February and March during periods with no storm events. Water in the Main Canal includes urban runoff from the City of Biggs.
  - iii. Just downstream of the confluence of Lateral K and the Main Canal, there is a BWGWD supply canal that crosses over the Main Canal. Water from this canal can spill over to the Main Canal.
  - iv. Main Canal travels southwest through Reclamation District 833 and there are a number of laterals that intersect with it, providing water and drainage to the farms in the area.
  - v. During the irrigation season (starts in early April), BWGWD will dam water to supply to local landowners. Dams may be removed by October 14<sup>th</sup> every year or when there is 2 inches of rain. This schedule is highly variable and Charles Nuchols makes the final call as to when dams will

be removed – they could potentially be in place up to nine months out of the year depending on the weather.

- vi. BWGWD has 3 pumps for water supply to the Grey Lodge Wildlife Preserve. There are also gates on the Lateral C-1 canal off of the Main Canal to the south that could potentially provide water to Grey Lodge.
  - vii. The Main Canal flows into the Cherokee Canal (Reclamation District 833's Lateral A) at the western edge of the district boundary. Water is then supplied via a number of channels to the Duck Clubs located east of Butte Creek in Reclamation District 1004's jurisdiction. The water in this area eventually drains to Butte Creek, however there are a number of possible outflows spanning over a 5+ mile area.
- b. Historic blue prints of the construction plans for the channels in Reclamation District 833 are available at the district's office and at Laughlin-Spence Engineering. The maps have NOT been converted into GIS layers.

*Action Item for Central Valley Water Board staff:*

- *Meet with Reclamation District 1004 contact to obtain more information on the water flows and water management to Duck Clubs east of Butte Creek.*

**4. Review of Monitoring Sites and Accessibility**

- a. Potential monitoring areas were reviewed and areas accessible via public roads were mapped. There are areas inside the Duck Clubs and the Gray Lodge Wildlife Preserve which will require permission from those stakeholders to access.
- b. Initial timeline for site surveys and monitoring was discussed along with the first 3-month strategy of sampling for constituents identified in the Basin Plan for the protection of MUN beneficial use.
  - *Concerns were raised by stakeholders as to the extent of the monitoring, availability of the data and how the data would be used with regard to the Irrigated Regulatory Lands Program.*
  - *Request was made for the Central Valley Water Board to meet with stakeholders in the Biggs area along with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Coalitions to further discuss the project.*
    - 1. *NOTE: Central Valley Water Board staff has been in coordination with both the Rice Coalition and Sacramento Valley Coalition*

*Action Item for Central Valley Water Board staff:*

- *Follow-up with Eugene Massa Jr. to schedule a meeting for stakeholders*
- *Follow-up with coalitions on next area meeting dates and agendas*

**5. Next Steps**

- a. Central Valley Water Board will conduct field reconnaissance by the end of March 2012. Water Quality monitoring will begin in April 2012.
- b. Meeting participants will be included in future project meeting correspondence as a stakeholder. Next project meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2012.